

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 11-17, 21-27 and 29 are pending in the present application, claims 10, 18-20 and 28 having been cancelled by this Amendment. Reconsideration in view of the following arguments is kindly requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11-17, 21, 23-27 and 29 have been allowed. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 2, 8, 10, 18 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

**Drawings**

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for features recited in claim 6. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the claims so as to be consistent with FIG. 3 and the specification at paragraph [0018], lines 5-16 and in paragraph [0025]. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

**35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections**

Claims 2, 8, 10, 18, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 2, 8 and 22 to place these claims in better form for U.S. practice, so as to overcome the rejection. Claims 10, 18 and 20 have been cancelled; the rejection as to these claims is now moot.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yabe (USP 5,995,430). Claims 19 and 20 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (USP 6,078,837). Claims 19-20 and 28 have been rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maeda (USP 6,574,163). By this Amendment, each of claims 19, 20 and 28 have been cancelled, thus, the rejections are now moot as to these claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-9, 11-17, 21-27 and 29 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Matthew J. Lattig at (703) 668-8026.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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